

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary, pre-empting regular prime time programming, just days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is not a case of democracy in action. It is a case of Big Business flexing its muscles and tripping over set legal limits. And, it's not a matter of who is the subject of the documentary - it's the reason behind it and the decision of Sinclair Broadcasting to demand that their stations across the country air the piece.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.